

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225509

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 225509

TOSEC 537, TOPOL39,

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL REPORT

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MARSHALL WRIGHT

1. THE FOREIGN AID CONFERENCE IS OVER. THE CONFERENCE ON THE FOREIGN AID BILL FINISHED TODAY WITH A RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL MORE ISSUES IN OUR FAVOR. DESPITE CHAIRMAN FULBRIGHT'S OPPOSITION, THE CONFERENCE AGREED TO DITCH THE SEPARATE FULBRIGHT MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL AND TO REPORT ONLY ONE BILL THIS YEAR ENCOMPASSING BOTH ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE AS IN THE PAST. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT THAT NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL BE SEPARATE BILLS.

THE FINAL FIGHT IN THE CONFERENCE CAME IN A LAST DITCH EFFORT BY CHAIRMAN FULBRIGHT TO CUT AN ADDITIONAL \$300 MILLION OUT OF THE BILL DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE CONFEREES HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED ON ALL MONEY FIGURES BY SPLITTING THEM DOWN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THE SENATE AND HOUSE AMOUNTS. FULBRIGHT'S EFFORT FAILED WHEN HUMPHREY'S PROXY ARRIVED FROM ROME AND SENATOR CASE JOINED SENATOR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 225509

AIKEN IN OPPOSITION.

IT HAS BEEN A WEIRD CONFERENCE WITH THE SENATE RECEDING TO AN ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE. IN THE END, CHAIRMAN FULBRIGHT AND SENATOR CHURCH REFUSED TO SIGN THE CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS FULBRIGHT AND CHURCH WERE ACCEPTING HOUSE POSITIONS IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THEY WOULD BE OPPOSING THE BILL ON THE FLOOR AND THAT, THEREFORE, FROM THEIR POINT OF VIEW, THE "WORSE" THE BILL WAS, THE BETTER. ON THE OTHER END OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, SENATOR HELMS IS TRYING TO ORGANIZE OPPOSITION TO THE BILL ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS "PRO-ABORTION".

2. SONNENFELDT AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH NOMINATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SCOTT-MANSFIELD IMPASSE OVER EXECUTIVE BRANCH NOMINATIONS HAS BEEN RESOLVED. SHULTZ HAS AGREED TO LET SONNENFELDT BE CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE, THUS LETTING SENATOR SCOTT REMOVE HIS HOLD. ANOTHER PART OF THE DEAL IS THAT SHULTZ WILL NOT ACTUALLY SWEAR HAL IN, THUS SAVING THE DIGNITY OF THE SENATE AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS. SENATOR SCOTT'S OFFICE EXPECTS THAT THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR WILL BE CLEARED TOMORROW, AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE MAW, DONALDSON AND THOMAS NOMINATIONS.

3. NEW MOOD IN THE CONGRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST. IN RECENT HILL CONTACTS WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED A GROWING TENDENCY TO CRITICIZE US MID-EAST POLICY AS TOO SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAEL AS TO BE HARMFUL TO BROADER US INTERESTS. THIS MORNING, OUR REGULAR WEDNESDAY BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSMEN (41 PRESENT AND REPRESENTING A SPECTRUM OF THE HOUSE) LEFT NO ROOM FOR DOUBT THAT THERE IS NOW IN THE CONGRESS A DISTINCT AND INCREASINGLY OUTSPOKEN DISPOSITION TO CONSIDER US POLICY TOO UNCRITICALLY PRO-ISRAEL. THIS POINT OF VIEW IS UNDOUBTEDLY HELD AT THIS TIME BY A MINORITY. IT IS ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY GROWING.

4. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY RUSH. SECRETARIES RUSH AND CLEMENTS AND ADMIRAL MOORER APPEARED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 225509

TODAY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE \$2.4 BILLION EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE BILL. IT WAS AN EXTREMELY GOOD HEARING WITH CHAIRMAN PASSMAN BEING OUTSTANDINGLY HELPFUL. THE COMMITTEE PROBED DEEPLY FOR THE JUSTIFICATIONS UNDERLYING BOTH THE ISRAELI AND CAMBODIAN REQUESTS, BUT AT THE END OF THE HEARINGS A NUMBER OF MEMBERS EXPRESSED THEMSELVES AS VERY SATISFIED WITH THE TESTIMONY. PASSMAN WAS OUTSPOKEN IN INSISTING THAT THE

ISRAELI AND CAMBODIAN AMOUNTS MUST CONTINUE TO BE LINKED, AND MADE IT PLAIN TO THE STRONG PRO-ISRAELI GROUP IN THE COMMITTEE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE OUT THE CAMBODIA AMOUNT WOULD IMPERIL THE ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. PASSMAN EXPECTS A CUT, AND IS THINKING IN TERMS OF PERHAPS \$1.75 BILLION AS A "SALABLE" FIGURE. PASSMAN WAS ALSO OUTSPOKEN IN HIS INTENT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE APPROPRIATIONS BEFORE ADJOURNMENT, EVEN IF THE AUTHORIZATION COMMITTEE HAS NOT ACTED.

5. MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL. THE CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST IS STILL ON THE TRACKS WITH THE LARGEST GROUP, THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, LEAVING TOMORROW. SAM STRATTON, A GOOD FRIEND, IS THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION. WE HAD A LONG TALK TODAY IN WHICH HE MADE IT PLAIN THAT THE TRIP WOULD TAKE PLACE WITH OR WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND I MADE IT PLAIN THAT WE WERE PROCEEDING WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS REQUESTED BY CHAIRMAN HEBERT BUT WITH CONSIDERABLE MISGIVINGS. I TOLD STRATTON THAT THERE WAS A SERIOUS RISK IN THE FRAGILE SITUATION OBTAINING OF SOME MEMBERS OF HIS 25-MAN DELEGATION DOING SOMETHING GENUINELY HARMFUL TO OUR PURPOSES. HE RECOGNIZED THIS, AND PROMISED TO KEEP "IRON CONTROL" OVER HIS DELEGATION. HE ALSO AGREED THAT THE DELEGATION COULD NOT EXPECT FROM OUR OVER-WORKED STAFFS IN CAIRO AND TEL AVIV THE KIND OF SERVICES NORMALLY RENDERED TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS. HE AGREED TO TELL ALL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION THAT THEIR ONE PURPOSE IN TRAVELING TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TO LISTEN TO THE POINTS OF VIEW OF THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES AND THAT THEY WERE TO "KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 225509

IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN OPINIONS." I WILL BELIEVE IT WHEN I SEE IT. STRATTON ASKED ME TO COME TO A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TOMORROW MORNING TO REINFORCE THE NECESSITY FOR DISCRETION.

6. WILBUR MILLS AND THE TRADE BILL. WILBUR MILLS HAS COME BACK TO TOWN AND PROMPTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE ULTIMATE PASSAGE OF THE TRADE BILL IS NOT LIKELY UNLESS THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ACTS QUICKLY. MILLS STATED THAT HE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT NIXON TO PERMIT THE BILL TO COME TO THE HOUSE FLOOR IN EARLY DECEMBER.

7. WE GOT OUR APPROPRIATIONS. THE SENATE TODAY AND THE HOUSE YESTERDAY APPROVED AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT THE

STATE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FY '74. THERE
ARE NO PROBLEMS WHATEVER WITH THE BILL.

8. ACCESS TO INFORMATION IS OVER. WITH THE DROPPING OF
THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROVISION FROM THE AID BILL AND
THE PASSAGE OF THE USIA AUTHORIZATION BILL BY BOTH SENATE
AND HOUSE WITHOUT THE INFORMATION PROVISION, THIS LONG
FIGHT IS COMPLETELY ENDED FOR ALL FOREIGN AFFAIRS AGENCIES
IN TOTAL SUCCESS, AT LEAST FOR THIS YEAR. RUSH

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